

[illegible]

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4 the input select switch includes:

5 a communications port interface, coupled to the remote control
6 receiver for receiving the second ones of the operational commands and
7 for generating therefrom the control request signal and for receiving a
8 select signal and generating a selection signal to cause the input select
9 switch to provide either the first ones of the operational commands or the
10 second ones of the operational commands to the data input port of the
11 computer.

12 a control output port coupled to the provide the control request
13 signal to the control input port of the computer and to receive the select signal
14 from the computer.

1 3. A system according to claim 2, wherein the data input port
2 and the control input port are respectively different communications ports on the
3 computer, each selected from a group consisting of RS-232 ports, keyboard
4 input ports, small computer systems interface (SCSI) ports, universal serial bus
5 (USB) ports, IEEE 1394 ports, and parallel data ports.

1 4. A system according to claim 2, wherein the computer
2 includes software, coupled to receive the control request signal provided by the
3 control output port of the input select switch, which implements a priority
4 scheme that determines which of the first ones of the operational commands and
5 the second ones of the operational commands are selected by the input select
6 switch responsive to the select signal.

1 5. A system according to claim 1, wherein:

2 the remote control transmitter includes a further computer
3 keyboard and an infrared transmitter; and

4 the remote control receiver includes an infrared receiver.

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11 directing data signals from one of the remote control transmitter
12 and the keyboard to the data input port of the computer, responsive to the
13 received select signal.

13. A method according to claim 12, further including the step of prioritizing the control request signal with input signals received by the computer from the keyboard to generate the select signal.

14. A method according to claim 12, wherein the prioritizing step generates the select signal only when the computer has not received signals from the keyboard for a predetermined interval.

15. A system for providing audio and video signals from a second location to a first location and for controlling the audio and video signals from the first location, comprising

a computer, in the second location, coupled for controllably providing video, and audio output signals;

a television monitor, in the first location, coupled to the computer for selectively displaying the video output signals provided thereby;

a local keyboard, in the second location;

a remote control transmitter in the first location for communicating command and control signals;

a remote control receiver, in the first location, for receiving and decoding transmissions from the remote control transmitter; and

an input select switch, in the second location, having a first and second input port and a first and second output port, the first input port being coupled to the remote control receiver and the second input port being coupled to the local keyboard wherein the first output port and the second output port are coupled to the computer;

an alternate video source, in the second location, coupled to the computer for receiving a selection signal from the computer; and

20 a video switch matrix, in the second location, having first second
21 input ports, an output port and an enable port wherein the first input port is
22 coupled to the computer for receiving a computer video signal, and the second
23 input port is coupled to the alternate video source for receiving the alternate
24 video source video signal and the enable port is coupled to the input select switch
25 to selectively couple the video signal applied to the first input port or the video
26 signal applied to the second input port to the output port.

1 16. The device of claim 15 wherein the plurality of video
2 sources includes at least two of a DVD player, a video tuner output, a HDTV,
3 and a video capture device.

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